EXAMINATION CONVENTIONS:
MSC IN APPLIED STATISTICS

For MSc candidates the overall assessment is based on:

1. Paper (i) Principles of Statistical Analysis
2. Paper (ii) Further Statistical Methodology
3. Assessed Practical Work
4. Dissertation.

Each of (1)–(4) has equal weight, i.e. each contributes 25% to the overall MSc assessment.

The guidelines are 75 hours of lectures or equivalent work for each of (1) and (2), with 1 question per 8–10 hours work.

In recent years (3) has been made up of 2 practical assignments in Michaelmas Term, 2 practical assignments in Hilary Term, and a Practical Assessment in week 5 of Trinity Term, with half of the weight of (3) being given to the Trinity Term Practical Assessment, the other half to the 4 practical assignments from Michaelmas/Hilary Terms. You will be told if there are any changes to these guidelines.

Candidates can pass, pass with distinction, or fail. In order to pass, a candidate must achieve an average of at least 40% on (1) and (2), a mark of at least 40% on (4), and an overall average of at least 50% on (1) –(4). An overall average of at least 70% is required for a distinction.

Distinction candidates will show excellence over a wide range of topics. Passing candidates will at least show satisfactory work over a reasonable range of topics. These descriptions are of overall performance: weaker performance in part of the overall assessment can be compensated for, if the overall performance merits it. Candidates who just fail the MSc can be allocated a pass on the Diploma if they show, in the view of the examiners, understanding and competence equivalent to passing the Diploma.

In assessing the dissertation the following criteria are used:

Criterion	Weighting
STRUCTURE • Understanding of aims • Quality of general approach	10%
LITERATURE AND THEORY • Quality of scrutiny of literature • Understanding of relevant theory	10%
EXPOSITION • Quality of exposition of source materials • Quality of elaborations of source materials • Quality of mathematical argument	20%
METHODOLOGY • Appropriateness of choice of techniques • Quality of data-collection and/or handling • Quality of computer work • Accuracy	30%
CONCLUSIONS • Appropriateness of conclusions drawn • Understanding of implications and limitations	20%
PRESENTATION • Clarity of style • Quality of diagrams and tables • Proper referencing to the literature	10%

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